Authorised local chemists are appointed by the CGHS on the basis of maximum discount offered by them and other relevant criteria as laid down in the tender document for appointment of local chemist.

Surprise inspections are carried out by the Senior Officers of CGHS to supervise, guide and maintain discipline in the functioning of dispensaries. Moreover, a high-level task force comprising of senior officers of the M/o Health and Family Welfare and CGHS has been constituted to look into the overall functioning of the dispensaries and action is taken based on the report of the task force, when necessary.

Use of viagra as life saving drug

2658. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:
SHRISATISH PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently the wonder drug viagra was used by a doctor in the Amrita Institute of Medical Science (AIMS), Kerala, as a life saving measure on two new borns with breathing problems;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether necessary permission was sought for and obtained from the competent authorities before administering the drug to the children; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) As per the information furnished by M/s Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences and Research Centre, Cochin, the new born services division of this institute had treated two new born babies suffering from pulmonary hypertension (severe breathing difficulties due to pneumonia and extreme narrowing of blood vessels supplying the lung) with Sidenafil citrate (active drug of VIAGRA) following failure of nitric oxide therapy.

The use of Sidenafil citrate (VIAGRA) in saving the life of new borns was reportedly based on the published literature on the use of Sidenafil in pulmonary hypertension and on the medical judgement of the treating physician concerned.

Since this was not a case of clinical trial, no permission was requested from the office of DCG (I).